

MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Aug. 13, 2009

Marshall honored for support of minority education institutions

By Rick Smith

The Marshall Space Flight Center has been selected as a 2009 Top Supporter of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions.

The award, made by the national business magazine U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology, was presented earlier this summer at Howard University in Washington. Tereasa Washington, director of the Marshall Center's Office of Human Capital, accepted on behalf of the center.

"The Marshall Center is honored to have been recognized for our recruitment and education programs, as well as our technical and employment relationships," Washington said. "We are proud of the contributions of Marshall's diverse team to the nation's mission in space, and these colleges and universities will continue to play a significant role in building our work force at a time when our challenges require greater innovation, diversity and perspective than ever before."

The Marshall Center was among dozens of industry organizations and government agencies selected for the award based on the results of the magazine's seventh annual survey on the subject. Award recipients were selected by the deans of 11 accredited college and university engineering programs – including those at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville

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Space Shuttle Program managers review Discovery's readiness to launch

By Sandra Martel

Space Shuttle Program managers met Aug. 11-12 to evaluate launch preparations for space shuttle Discovery, including recent data from testing on Discovery's external tank foam insulation and overall readiness to launch.

Those tests were conducted as a result of foam loss

See STS-128 on page 5



STS-128 crew members include, from left, seated, Kevin Ford, pilot, and Rick Sturckow, commander. Standing, from left, are Jose Hernandez, John "Danny" Olivas; Nicole Scott; European Space Agency astronaut Christer Fuglesang; and Patrick Forrester, all mission specialists.

NASA administrator, deputy to hold meeting with Marshall team

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and Deputy Administrator Lori Garver will hold an all-hands meeting with Marshall Space Flight Center team members at 10 a.m., Aug. 19, in Activities Building 4316. Team members will have the opportunity to ask questions. All

Marshall civil service employees, contractors and retirees are encouraged to attend. The meeting will broadcast live on Marshall and Desktop TV.

Details will be posted on Inside Marshall as they become available.

Hubble repair astronauts say 'thanks' to Marshall during visit

By Sanda Martel

"You gave us the power to get off the ground," STS-125 Commander Scott Altman told the Marshall Space Flight Center team Aug. 6, speaking for his crew that flew NASA's Hubble Space Telescope repair mission. "We couldn't have done it without you," he said, noting that Hubble was born at the Marshall Center where science work for the telescope was performed before its launch in 1990.

"So you gave us a place to go to – and the power to get us there. And we thank you," said Altman in appreciation.

The Marshall Center is responsible for the space shuttle propulsion system, consisting of the space shuttle main engines, solid rocket boosters with their solid rocket motors and the external tank. The three high-performing, reusable liquid propellant rocket engines, along with the solid rocket boosters, provide more than 7.8 million pounds of thrust to lift the space shuttle to orbit.

Altman was joined in Morris Auditorium by Pilot Greg Johnson and Mission Specialists Mike

Massimino and Megan McArthur to present video highlights of NASA's fifth and final servicing mission to Hubble, which flew in May.

Space shuttle Atlantis' nearly 13-day mission of almost 5.3 million miles rejuvenated Hubble with state-of-the-art science instruments designed to improve the telescope's discovery capabilities by as much as 70 times and extend its lifetime through at least 2014.

The STS-125 crew performed five spacewalks to complete repair work on the Hubble telescope.

Martel, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.



STS-125 astronauts were presented gifts by Shuttle Propulsion Office Manager Steve Cash, center, following their mission highlights presentation. From left are Mission Specialists Megan McArthur and Mike Massimino; Cash; Pilot Greg Johnson; and Commander Scott Altman.

Systems Engineering Activity of the Year Award nominations now being accepted

NASA has issued a call for nominations for the 2010 Systems Engineering Activity of the Year Award.

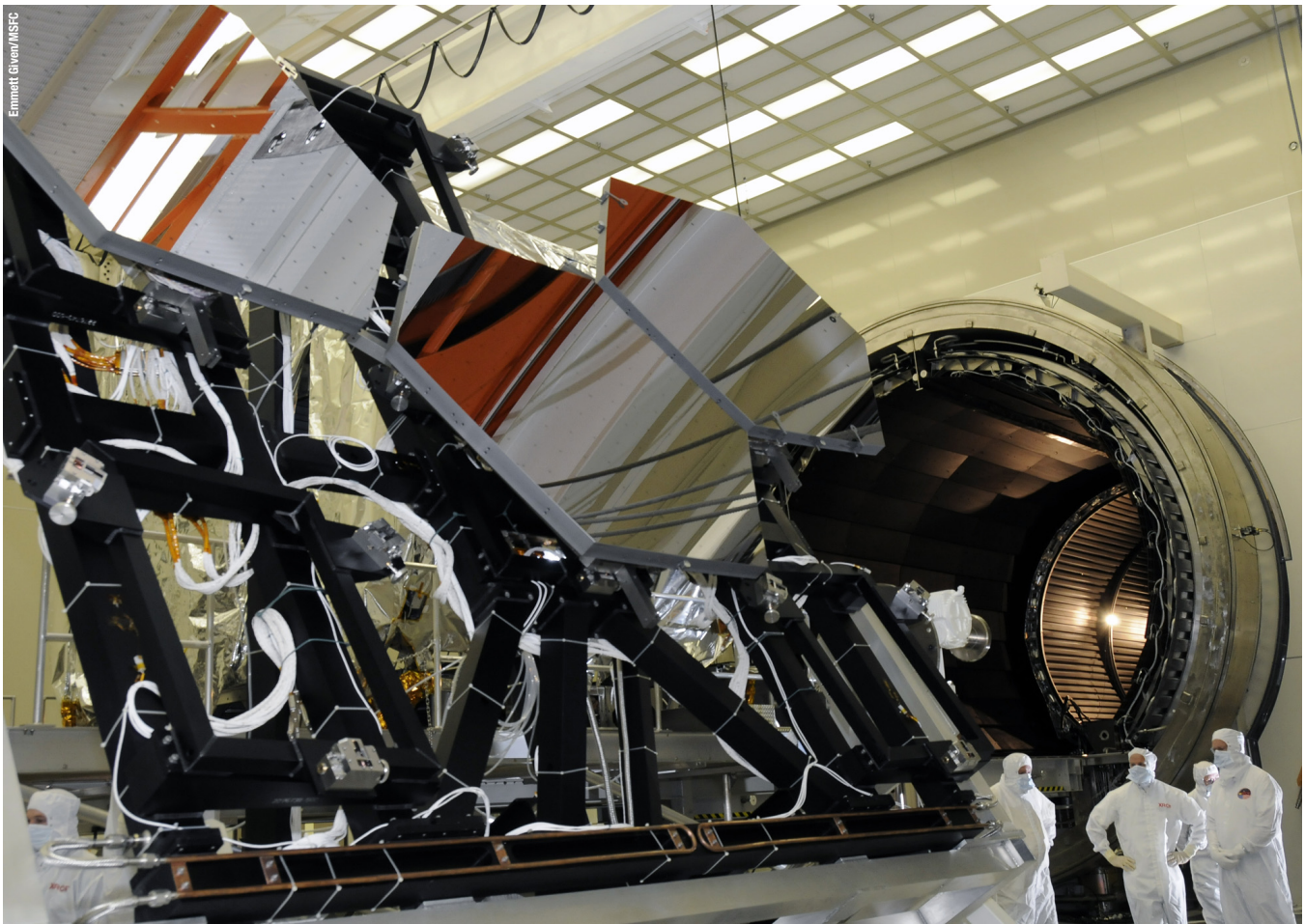
The honor recognizes excellence in the application of system engineering practices that result in program or project success, and the development of new techniques or methodologies that advance the state of the art of systems engineering.

The winner will be honored Feb. 9-10 at the 2010 NASA Project Management Challenge conference in Galveston, Texas, southeast of Houston, home of the Johnson Space Center.

The management challenge is an annual NASA training event that brings together speakers, discussion panels, case studies and networking opportunities in program/project management, systems engineering, safety and mission assurance, team building and business management.

The deadline for nominations is Aug. 21. Please visit Inside Marshall for award eligibility criteria and for the nomination form. Please contact Phil Hall of Marshall's Engineering Directorate at 544-2525 for more information.

Big chill for James Webb Space Telescope mirrors



A team of engineers and technicians from NASA and Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. of Boulder, Colo., prepare to load three James Webb Space Telescope mirror segments into a test chamber in the Marshall Space Flight Center's X-ray & Cryogenic Facility. The segments will be subjected to

temperatures reaching minus 414 degrees Fahrenheit – ensuring the mirror segments can withstand the extreme temperatures of space. The Webb Space Telescope is scheduled to launch to space in 2014 to study the formation of the universe and the evolution of our solar system.

Lunch-n-learn on child safety set today

The Marshall Safety & Health Action Team will host a lunch-n-learn titled “Predators Among Us – Save Our Children” today from 11 a.m.-noon in Building 4200, Room P110. The lunch-n-learn program aims to educate parents on what they can do to reduce the likelihood that their child will become a victim of sexual predators.

Participants are asked to bring a bag lunch.



Dessert will be provided.

The safety action team is a volunteer organization that enables team members to become involved in promoting safety and health in the Marshall Space Flight Center community. Membership is open to all civil service and contractor employees.

For more information on the organization and how to join, visit <http://msat.msfc.nasa.gov/>.

Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue, Aug. 20, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13.

Miscellaneous

AC Delco motorcycle lift jack, \$75; two-piece leather motorcycle touring luggage, \$150; brown sofa, \$300. 684-9545

1960s Fender Bassman Amp, \$1,000; oak gossip bench, \$100; Craftsman Professional Routing Center, \$100. 679-9383

Oak bedroom set, queen headboard, frame, two nightstands, mirrored dresser, chest of drawers, \$350. 468-1066

36-inch Magnavox digital TV, tube, \$250 obo. 425-8467

Folding 42-inch dog crate/cage, two doors, liner-pan, \$75. 508-4379

Dual 1229 turntable, manual, R&R LPS, \$99 obo. 655-3324 leave message

Delta small truck bed tool box, two heavy-duty locks, \$200. 830-6584 or 468-5728

Leather T-strap Keds, baby -- 3M, toddler -- 4W/5W, \$10 a pair. 771-2030

Exciser Gravity Force Trainer, instructions and video, \$200. 606-3303

Weed Eater, \$20; weight bench, \$20; Disney Princess TV and DVD/VCR Combo, both \$125. 797-7392

Electric fireplace, 54" w x 47" h, cherry mantle, electric insert, remote controlled, \$550. 615-479-7453

Entertainment center, twin-shelved headboard, laminated natural, <http://jscottm.home.mchsi.com/furniture.htm>, \$120. 828-9651

Tennessee football tickets, Sept. 5, Western Kentucky; Sept. 26, Ohio; Nov. 7, Memphis, regular price. 652-2787

Executive credenza/file cabinet, solid wood, four extra large file drawers, extended desk top, \$100. 895-2959

Furniture, china, dishes, cookware, paintings, hospital bed, Christmas decorations, antiques, more, make offers. 772-7262

Wedding dress, size 10-12, \$700. 651-4723

Military parachute, 36 feet, cut cords, \$45. 325-6000

Cushion for decorative bench, 42L X 20W, black, yellow, green, orange, \$35. 656-8507

Vehicles

2008 Chevy Colorado Z71 crew cab, fully loaded, 40k miles, \$19,000. 303-7952

2007 Sidney Outback 28-foot fifth wheel camper, \$19,500. 679-2410

2007 Yamaha FX HO Waverunners, two, 40 hours each, \$15,900 obo. 714-4040

2006 Chrysler Pacifica Touring, third row, red, 24k miles, \$14,500. 797-1300

2001 Ford Windstar LX, 118k miles, \$4,950. 658-9272

2000 Oldsmobile Silhouette, maroon, leather seats, tow package, 102k miles, \$6,100 obo. 881-2685

1999 Plymouth Grand Voyager, V6, new tires, all power, towing package, 132k miles, \$3,500. 837-7334

1998 Stingray RS180, new 140hp I/O, seats seven, new trailer tires, ski equipment, \$10,000. 640-6427

1996 Chevrolet Cavalier, white, tinted windows,

JVC CD player, 119,200 miles, \$2,000 obo. 931-309-9309

1995 Buick Regal, 110k miles, cold AC, \$1,900. 417-1957

1987 Toyota Supra, Targa top, auto, 191k miles, \$2,500. 652-0598

Wanted

Apollo 40th anniversary XL T-shirt. 325-6000

Motorcycle that does not run, frame in good condition, will pick up. 585-4100

Houses to clean; elderly assistance. 651-4723

White/off-white dresser or chest of drawers; white/off-white bookcase, good condition. 468-8177

Worn-out American Flags for retirement, will replace for small fee. Allan at 880-1544

Found

Set of Acura car keys, outside Building 4600, July 23; blue-and-white striped umbrella, Building 4600, July 23. 544-4680

Free

Full-blooded black Labrador female, three years old; two mixed lab males, 9 months old, spayed/neutered/shots. 303-0124

Older USGS topographic maps, Bankhead and Talladega forests, Madison and Jackson counties, Wheeler Lake. 655-3324

Shuttle Buddies to meet Aug. 24

The Shuttle Buddies will meet at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 24 at Mullins Restaurant on Andrew Jackson Way.

For more information, call Deemer Self at 881-7757.

'Poster Day' highlights science and engineering accomplishments of Marshall's summer interns



About 150 Marshall Space Flight Center student interns completed their 10-week summer program with "Intern Poster Day," showcasing science and engineering projects they supported. The July 30 event was hosted by the Academic Affairs Office, part of Marshall's Office of Human Capital. Intern Pamela Valdez, right, shows her poster to Jack Parker, left, a contractor with QTEC Inc. of Huntsville, supporting Marshall's

Ares Projects; and Paul Stephens, also of QTEC, supporting Marshall's Engineering Directorate. Valdez, a student at the University of Texas at El Paso, interned with the Engineering Directorate's Space Systems Department. NASA internships provide high school and college students the opportunity to gain experience in technical fields, such as math and science, which are crucial to supporting NASA's mission.

STS-128 *Continued from page 1*

on space shuttle Endeavour's tank during the STS-127 launch in July. Several pieces of foam were liberated from the intertank and liquid oxygen tank. One ice frost ramp location lost foam on STS-127 and also on STS-125 during its May launch.

At Marshall Star press time, no decision had been made to proceed to the final flight readiness review. The launch date will be announced at the conclusion of the review. The current targeted launch date is Aug. 25, with lift off from the Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

The flight readiness review is a traditional meeting during which top NASA and contractor managers set launch dates; determine whether the shuttle's complex array of equipment, support systems and procedures are ready for flight; and assess any risks associated with the mission.

Shuttle Discovery's flight will deliver supplies and equipment to the space station, including the Materials Science Research Rack, or MSRR, managed by the Marshall Space Flight Center. It will allow for study of a variety of materials – including metals, ceramics, semiconductor crystals and glasses onboard the orbiting laboratory.

STS-128 also will deliver the Leonardo Multi-Purpose Logistics Module containing life support racks and science racks. The Lightweight Multi-Purpose Experiment Support Structure Carrier, a cargo container for additional science experiments and spare parts, also will be delivered to the space station. The mission will include three spacewalks.

Martel, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Honored *Continued from page 1*

and Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Ala.

Award recipients were chosen based on several factors, including their support for infrastructure modernization and enhancement; participation on school advisory councils; research and development programs; and scholarship, co-op and career opportunities for students and faculty at minority colleges and universities.

"America's future in the marketplace depends heavily on the development of students from minority-serving institutions, which are dedicated to producing the best scientists, technologists, mathematicians and engineers," said Tyrone Taborn, chief executive officer of the Career Communications Group, which publishes U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology magazine.

In honor of the selection, the Marshall Center and other winning organizations were recognized in the May 2009 edition of U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology. To view the list of winners, visit <http://www.blackengineer.com>.



Tereasa Washington, director of the Marshall Center's Office of Human Capital, displays the award naming the center a 2009 Top Supporter of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions.

For more information about Marshall's Academic Affairs Office and its education initiatives at colleges and universities around the nation, visit <http://education.msfc.nasa.gov>.

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Obituaries

Egbert Edward Clark, 73, of Huntsville died June 27. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1999 as an engineer. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Clark.

Robert Walker, 77, of Huntsville died

July 5. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1992 as an aerospace engineer supervisor. He is survived by his wife, Michele Walker.

Jay C. Fryman, 88, of Huntsville died July 11. He retired from the Marshall

Center in 1977 as a program analysis officer.

Thelmer Payton Smith, 87, of Huntsville died July 21. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1979 as an engineer.

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